



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S) : John M. Stropki, Jr., et al.  
FOR : EXTENSION LIFT TRUCK  
MODIFICATION  
SERIAL NO. : 10/815,536  
FILED : April 1, 2004  
EXAMINER : Unknown  
ART UNIT : 1725  
CONFIRMATION NO. : 1570  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. : LEE 2 00358

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609, applicant(s) submit(s) the following Disclosure Statement concerning art of which the applicant(s) is (are) aware. A copy of PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith.

This Information Disclosure Statement should not be construed to be an admission that any information referred to herein or submitted herewith is "prior art" or is considered to be material to patentability for this invention.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office OG Notice dated 12 October 2004 published a final rule revising 37 C.F.R. 1.98 dealing with the content of Disclosure Statements. Paragraph (a)(2) was revised to read in part, "A legible copy of: (i) Each foreign patent; (ii) Each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed, other than U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications unless required by the

Office.” Therefore, Applicant(s) has (have) not enclosed copies of the cited U.S. patents and published patent applications with this Information Disclosure Statement.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement should not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b) exists.

☐ Under § 1.98(a)(3), a concise explanation of relevance is required for information that is not in the English language. Accordingly, the English language documents have no further explanation.

☐ All of the cited and/or included documents were cited by the Patent Office in a related application(s). A copy of the Search Report is enclosed.

Consideration of the appropriate paragraph(s) indicated below is respectfully requested:

☐ WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF FILING: Under § 1.97(b)(1), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application (or date of entry of the national stage). Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be handled as set forth below.

☒ BEFORE FIRST OFFICE ACTION: Under § 1.97(b)(3), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be handled as set forth below.

☐ BEFORE FINAL ACTION, OR NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE, OR ACTION THAT CLOSES PROSECUTION/WITH STATEMENT: Under § 1.97(c)(1), this information shall be considered if filed before the mailing date of a final action, or a Notice of Allowance or action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application if accompanied by the statement:

Under § 1.97(e)(1), the undersigned states:

☐ A. that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement; or

☐ B. that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

☐ **BEFORE FINAL ACTION, OR NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE, OR ACTION THAT CLOSES PROSECUTION/WITH FEE:** Under § 1.97(c)(2), this information shall be considered if filed before the mailing date of a final action if accompanied by a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by §1.17(p). Accordingly, the necessary fee accompanies this Information Disclosure Statement, as set forth below.

☐ **AFTER FINAL ACTION, OR NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE, OR ACTION THAT CLOSES PROSECUTION/AND ON OR BEFORE PAYMENT OF THE ISSUE FEE:**

1. Under § 1.97(e)(1), the undersigned states:

☐ A. that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement; **or**

☐ B. that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement; **and**

2. ☐ the fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by §1.17(p). Accordingly, the necessary fee accompanies this Information Disclosure Statement, as set forth below.

☐ **PRIORITY CLAIM:** The attached PTO 1449 Form includes all patents, publications, or other information previously cited by or submitted to the Office in one or more prior applications from which the present application claims priority. These one or more prior applications are identified in the papers accompanying the filing of this application.

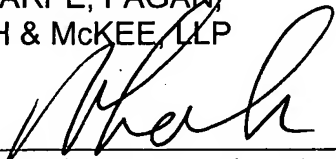
Any payment due for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is authorized to be charged to a Credit Card. The appropriate form PTO-2038 is enclosed for this purpose. **If the Credit Card is unable to be charged, please charge any and all fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.**

It is respectfully requested that the attached document(s) be considered and officially cited in examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,  
MINNICH & MCKEE, LLP

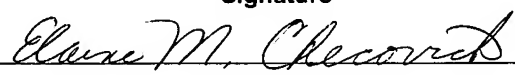
1-31-06  
Date

  
Robert V. Vickers, Reg. No. 19,504  
1100 Superior Avenue, Seventh Floor  
Cleveland, OH 44114-2579  
216-861-5582

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I certify that this Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying document(s) are being

- ☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8, addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.
- ☐ transmitted to facsimile number under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 on the date indicated below.
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Substitute for form 7449/PTO

Complete if Known

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Application Number 10/815,536  
 Filing Date April 1, 2004  
 First Named Inventor John M. Stropki, Jr.  
 Art Unit 1725  
 Examiner Name Unknown  
 Attorney Docket No. LEEE 2 00358

Sheet 1 of 1

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Document No. Number-Kind Code (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
	AA	US-5,250,786	10-05-1993	Kikuchi, et al.
	AB	US-6,982,398	01-03-2006	Albrecht
	AC	US-		
	AD	US-		
	AE	US-		
	AF	US-		
	AG	US-		
	AH	US-		
	AI	US-		
	AJ	US-		
	AK	US-		
	AL	US-		

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document Country Code-Number Kind Code (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	T
	AM	JP 10 314939 A	12-02-1998	Ikegami Hideki	<input type="checkbox"/>
	AN	JP 54 155950 A	12-08-1979	Kishiden Kogyo	<input type="checkbox"/>
	AO	JP 61 135479 A	06-23-1986	Suzuki Motor Co. Ltd.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	AP	JP 04 327375 A	11-16-1992	Suzuki Motor Corp.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	AQ	JP 04 356372 A	12-10-1992	Suzuki Motor Corp.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	AR	JP 06 182548 A	07-05-1994	Matsushita Electric Ind. Co. Ltd.	<input type="checkbox"/>

## OTHER - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume/issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T
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	AT		<input type="checkbox"/>
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